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SUBJ/PUBLIC AFFAIRS-NAVAL SERVICE MEDICAL NEWS (NSMN) (94-28)//
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RMKS/1. THIS SERVICE IS FOR GENERAL DISTRIBUTION OF
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2. HEADLINES AND GENERAL INTEREST STORIES THIS WEEK:
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HEADLINE: NEPMU-7 Deploys to Rwanda

NEPMU-7 Naples, Italy (NSMN) -- Eight members of U.S. Navy
Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit No. 7 (NEPMU-7),
Naples, deployed this week to Operation Support Hope, the Rwanda
relief effort.

Two members of NEPMU-7 -- Environmental Health Officer CDR
J.A. McGinnis, MSC, and Preventive Medicine Technician HMC J.W.
Lucas -- deployed to the Joint Task Force Headquarter's staff
early in the week.

"They will provide initial public health elements, determine
the need for additional resources to be brought into operation,
and where they need to be directed," said CAPT David Trump, MC,
NEPMU-7's officer-in-charge, of those reporting to the JTF HQ.

A six-person preventive medicine team with 4,000 pounds of
equipment and supplies left Naples early 27 July, less than 36
hours after being placed on alert. The team consists of
Preventive Medicine Officer/Team Leader LCDR Ann Fallon, MC;
Environmental Health Officer/Operations Officer LT Steve Krysiak,
MSC, USNR; Medical Logistics Officer, LT Joe Alexander, MSC; and

Preventive Medicine Technicians HMC Gary Richards, HM3 Jo Biegel, and HM3 Gerone "Bo" Chandler.

The Preventive Medicine Team's deployment mission is to join an Army Forward Support Medical Company tasked with establishing a 1,000-bed rehydration center in Goma, Zaire. The Navy personnel will work with Army preventive medicine and veterinary personnel to improve public health conditions for the people in the refugee centers and to protect the health of deployed U.S. forces.

"I know it sounds corny," said Biegel to reporters before deploying, "but I just hope we can make a difference."

Fallon echoed that sentiment, saying, "I would like to save as many lives as possible, to stop the epidemic as quickly as possible. I was back in the States on Monday and watching TV -- one person was dying per minute; the numbers are just horrendous. If we can stop that or stem that in any way, we will have been successful."

"The enormity of the situation is probably the most daunting," agreed Trump. "Until they get there and see what is already in place and what needs to be done, we won't know what we (the Navy team) can accomplish."

Moving preventive medicine teams and their equipment forward is a top priority in this operation. "A good, clean water supply for the refugees will be a major step in controlling the cholera outbreak," said Trump. "Cholera can decimate an entire population without good water and sanitation, which is exactly what has happened there."

Deployments in support of relief efforts and humanitarian missions are not new for the 20 men and women of NEPMU-7. During the past two years, the unit deployed preventive medicine teams to Zambia, Sierra Leone, Niger and Ghana for MEDFLAG exercises. MEDFLAGS are tri-service, U.S. European Command medical exercises that provide medical training and humanitarian assistance to people of the host nation and, at the same time, U.S. medical personnel gain field experience providing medical services in the developing world. NEPMU-7 members have also deployed to Operations Restore Hope and Provide Relief (the Somalia relief efforts) and to Operation Provide Promise for the Kurdish refugees in Northern Iraq.

"The unit has a long history of providing preventive medicine support," said Fallon. "We are able to quickly man a six-person team and get our assets in the field." It should be noted, however, that in this case the "manning" of NEPMU-7's six-person team includes two women -- one of whom is Fallon, the team leader.

JOC (SW/AW) Douglas Gabos, Naval Support Activities Naples, contributed to this story.

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HEADLINE: ASD(HA) Addresses DOD Health Care Future

USACOM Norfolk, VA (NSMN) -- "It is hard to talk about readiness without talking about health care." That's what Dr. Stephen Joseph, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs said as he began his speech about the future of DOD health care.

He spoke at the Joint Task Force Surgeon's seminar, the first of its kind, held recently in Norfolk under the auspices of the U.S. Atlantic Command. Joseph commented that the agility of military medical personnel to react to a variety of situations on short notice is essential in today's unpredictable world.

He also said that medical technology is changing very rapidly due to the unprecedented pace at which biological and information technology is advancing. "One of the most critical problems is designing flexibility into flexibility," he said.

At a recent conference during which Joseph met with the surgeons general for all branches of service, the three most relevant issues that the attendees agreed to discuss were (1) long-range strategic planning; (2) a corporate board approach to the concept of TRICARE and managed care; and (3) the readiness issue. He commented that readiness was voted unanimously among the services as a most critical issue that warranted significant attention and discussion.

During his speech, Joseph also discussed the Medical Readiness Strategic Plan emphasizing the many and varied requirements of a health services system, particularly in a joint service environment. He pointed out that it is not easy to untangle wartime and peacetime as the services are committed to maintain health care for beneficiaries at a consistently high level even though medical staffs may be deployed. He concluded his address by reviewing the many challenges faced by today's military health services emphasizing the importance of teamwork, professionalism and cooperation.

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HEADLINE: Taking Care of Our Own at NMC Portsmouth

NMC Portsmouth, VA (NSMN) -- "The Navy takes care of its own." As an organization, we follow this credo, but only through the hard work, dedication and charity of our active duty and retired personnel.

CAPT Arno H. Laux epitomizes that spirit. He retired from the Navy in December 1980, following a tour as commanding officer of Naval Facility Brawdy Wales, and later made his home in Virginia Beach. After the 1993 death of his wife, Dolly, Laux found a fitting memorial to her through the Chisolm Foundation. The non-profit organization maintains the Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher House located just blocks from Naval Medical Center Portsmouth.

The Fisher House provides accommodations and basic food items for families of seriously ill patients to help ease the burden of Fisher House guests. Although the majority of guests are families of NMC Portsmouth patients, Portsmouth General, Portsmouth Psychiatric and Maryview hospitals are also eligible to refer families.

The Fisher House recently renovated the 12th and final room in the hospitality house. In a ceremony at Fisher House on 8 July, Laux presented the first of what will be annual checks to the Chisolm Foundation. The donations will be used to maintain the room. Laux and his granddaughter, Whitney Stolle, hung a portrait of Dolly Laux over the fireplace mantel and a brass

plaque was mounted outside the door commemorating the room in Dolly's honor.

The house was originally named Chisolm House in honor of its first rector and pastor, Rev. James Chisolm, who died at the Naval Hospital during the 1855 yellow fever epidemic. Over the years, the demand outgrew the existing accommodations. Mr. Fisher, founder of the USS Intrepid Museum in New York City, provided an endowment to continue the operation of the Chisolm Foundation and provided expansion funds to meet the needs of the military and civilian communities.

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HEADLINE: NDC Camp Pendleton 'Three-Peats' as Olympics Champion

NDC Camp Pendleton, CA (NSMN) -- The Naval Dental Center Camp Pendleton HM/DT Olympics Team successfully defended its title and achieved an unprecedented "three-peat" championship in the Eighth Annual Southern California HM/DT Olympics held 25 June at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. The Dental Center is the only command to win the event for three consecutive years. The Hospital Corpsmen and Dental Technicians (HM/DT) Olympics is an all-day competition in which regional teams compete for not only the perpetual trophy, but also for bragging rights.

The competition, conceived nine years ago to hone battlefield skills for Medical Department personnel, promotes both teamwork and camaraderie and is comprised of five individual events: the stretcher-bearer obstacle course; the general purpose tent (medium) erection/strike down practical; first aid written examination; field casualty triage/treatment and transportation practical; and the cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) practical.

Ten teams competed for the title in this year's Olympics. NDC Camp Pendleton, with a total score of 478.3 points, edged out the team from Naval Medical Center San Diego, which scored 476.3 points.

Past winners of the HM/DT Olympics are: 1993, NDC Camp Pendleton; 1992, NDC Camp Pendleton/1st Dental Battalion; 1990 and 1989, Naval School of Dental Assisting and Technology (NSDAT), San Diego; 1988, NDC San Diego; 1987, NSDAT; and 1986, Naval Medical Clinics San Diego. The 1991 Olympics were cancelled due to Operations Desert Shield and Storm.

Congratulations to the 1994 Champions: DN Arturo Beker, DT1(SW) Anthony Buffamonte, DT2(AW) Luis Castro, DT1 Horatio Dotson, DT2 Timothy Erickson, DT1 David Eastin, DT2 Bernardo Garcia, DT3 Neisha Gutierrez, DT1 Rolando Hamto, DT3 James Harris, SK2 Frederick Lang, DT3 Ronald Malec, DT1 Duane Patterson, DT3 Jon Rush, DT2 Sean Stephens, DT3 Jenny Thompson and Team Captain DT1(SW) Donald True.

Story by CDR E.A. Lee, MSC

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HEADLINE: Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms Celebrates First Year

NAVHOSP Twentynine Palms, CA (NSMN) -- Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms celebrated its first anniversary on 9 July 1994. The celebration kicked off with a special luncheon and cake-

cutting ceremony. In addition to the festival, the hospital's Staff Galley also held a grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

"The rapid influx of personnel, equipment and technology has led to many challenges for all staff members of the Naval Hospital," said Commanding Officer CAPT C.S. Chitwood, MSC. "With the addition of this state-of-the-art facility, we have dramatically increased the morale of our staff and beneficiaries alike."

The hospital continues to expand services to its beneficiaries. The opening of the first fully furnished Physical Therapy Department at the hospital saved nearly \$800,000 in supplemental care funds. The Radiology Department has the additional capabilities of CT scan, Ultrasound, Fluoroscopy and Mammography. The opening of the Close Observation Unit has enabled patients who would previously have been transferred to civilian facilities to receive 24-hour monitoring at the Naval Hospital, another significant cost savings.

The hospital recently passed an intense Inspector General Inspection and is preparing for the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations survey in December 1994.

Story by YN2 Kevin Jon Ehlers

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HEADLINE: GRAND ROUND ABSTRACTS

NSPI Washington, DC (NSMN) -- The Potomac Chapter of the National Society of Performance and Instruction presented its 1993-1994 Award of Excellence for Outstanding Technology-Based Training Program to the Naval Health Sciences Education and Training Command.

The award is given to the best example of systematically developed technology-based training, implemented in the 1990-1993 period. The evaluation criteria included: an appropriate match between training need and training solution; documented effectiveness; usability; and creativity.

HSETC was recognized for its "Principles of Aseptic Technique/Mock Surgery Interactive Videodisc."

In presenting the award to HSETC, NSPI's Potomac Chapter President Lauren L. Wertheim said, "The Award subcommittee for Outstanding Training Programs was very impressed with this program. Congratulations to your entire team."

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NMC San Diego (NSMN) -- LT Anne Ruppe Shields, MSC, was selected as Audiologist of the Year for 1994 by members of the Navy Audiology Society.

Currently serving as head, Audiology Division, Otolaryngology Department, Naval Medical Center San Diego, Shields was selected based on her efforts toward improving patient care in the San Diego area. She improved the scheduling system; spearheaded a revision of audiology peer review guidelines; developed a comprehensive audiological instruction for corpsmen and residents; coordinated monthly continuing education classes for audiology staff; and instituted mechanisms

to improve communication and referrals throughout the Otolaryngology Department.

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CRUITCOM Washington (NSMN) -- Congratulations to HM2 Theresa Hyder, who was Navy Recruiting Command Area One's Recruiter of the Month for March 1994.

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NLUS Washington (NSMN) -- The Navy League of the United States recently announced the winners of the Navy League 1994 Professional Excellence Awards, presented annually to honor men and women of the sea services who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in a naval or maritime field.

Congratulations to HM1 Delmar D. Dice, who was named recipient of the Admiral Claude V. Ricketts Award for Inspirational Leadership (E-6 and below), for outstanding operational leadership while assigned as independent duty corpsman to U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Seven, then deployed to Colombia in support of the U.S. Southern Command's counterdrug efforts, and as senior Medical Department representative for an 89-man detail deployed to Guam. Dice took measures to ensure that proper medical supplies and equipment were available to address the unique conditions of the mission, applied his medical skills in treating the local population and Colombian Marines, and directed a successful evacuation from a downed helicopter carrying two Colombian flag officers. He also assisted in the construction of a Seabee base camp. In Guam, he served as an instructor in the medical section of the Seabee combat warfare specialist program.

This year's winners will be honored at an Awards Luncheon during the 1994 NLUS National Convention, 2-7 August, in San Diego.

Story condensed from Sea Power, July 1994

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USUHS Bethesda, MD (NSMN) -- Past and present students from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences swept the Meadox awards, an annual competition among metropolitan area medical students sponsored by the Washington Society for the History of Medicine. About 200 local medical school and post graduate training program participants are eligible to submit entries.

The top three awards went, respectively, to USUHS sophomore 2ndLt Peter J. Weiner, USA; 1994 graduate Capt G. Scott Welker, USAF; and 1989 alumni LT David G. Elkins, USN.

Elkins, who is assigned to the anesthesiology department, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, garnered his award with "The Emergence of Antisepsis in Europe." Although the concept of contagion is thousands of years old, he wrote, Western physicians did not subscribe widely to it -- preferring instead the miasma theory of disease transmission -- until the late nineteenth century. The evolution of antisepsis in the late nineteenth century, he said, transformed surgery from a dangerous last

resort to a legitimate therapeutic modality.

Story condensed from the USUHS alumni magazine, FYI, June 1994

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HEADLINE: HEALTHWATCH: Innovative Ways of Informing Beneficiaries

NAVHOSP Camp Lejeune, NC (NSMN) -- Targeting Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune's beneficiaries, and other listeners, WJNC radio in North Carolina will air daily, biweekly and periodical medical and administrative information provided by the hospital, beginning 28 July. The various formats include "People's Medical School," "Home Health Hints" and public service announcements.

Commanding Officer CAPT M.L. Cowan, MC, kicked off the hospital's first show as a guest on the hour-long "People's Medical School." Beginning 11 August and every Thursday thereafter, a Naval Hospital physician will be the guest for this medical information-oriented talk show. During the show, listeners can call in and ask questions or discuss the health topic of the hour, which is usually related to the physician's specialty.

One-minute "Home Health Hints" will also debut in mid-August. The health hints will play Monday through Friday, once in the morning between 0600 and 0700 and again between 1200 and 1500. Each topic describes causes and symptoms, then indicates treatments you can perform at home for various illnesses and injuries. The same health hints will appear weekly in Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune's newspaper, the Globe.

Delivering the on-air Home Health Hints will be eight people who were selected among 20 who auditioned for the "Voices of Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune." Originally, only three announcers were to be selected, but the outstanding talent shown by all who auditioned demanded the increase to eight. Congratulations to "Voices" LCDR Linda Boris, LT James Meekins, LTjg Gina Cavalli, ENS Paul Cauchon, HM1 Shannon Lauziere, HM2 Janet Refugia, HN Mary MacKay and Ms. Deanna Shephard.

WJNC will also periodically air public service announcements specifically for eligible beneficiaries about the hospital's policies, CHAMPUS and other patient-oriented information, and hospital and clinic hours and services.

Story by HMCM D.L. Martin

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3. Professional Notes: Information on upcoming symposiums, conferences or courses of interest to Navy Medical Department personnel and wrap-ups on ones attended. Anyone with information to share in this section should contact the editor (see the last paragraph of this message on ways to do so).

Scheduled Meetings:

-- 1-12 August 1994, Operational Entomology Training, Navy Disease Vector Ecology and Control Center, Jacksonville, FL. For information, contact the DVECC Training Department at (904) 772-2424, DSN 942-2424, FAX (904) 779-0107.

-- 10-12 August 1994, World War II in the Pacific, Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA. Sessions include two on medicine (Combat Medical Support and Amphibious Warfare Medical

Support), and one of the featured speakers will be an Army nurse (Ruby Bradley). For information, call (703) 836-6727.

-- 16-22 September 1994, International Conference on Physician Health, Ottawa Westin Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario, sponsored by AMA's Physicians Health Foundation. Call 1-800-621-8335 for information; registration deadline is 10 August 1994.

-- 17-20 September 1994, Hospital Epidemiology Training Course, Chicago. For information, contact SHEA Meetings Department, 875 Kings Highway, Suite 200, Woodbury, NJ 08096-3172; (609) 845-1720.

-- 21-22 September 1994, Fourth Annual Symposium on Health Care Ethics, Naval Air Station Glenview, IL. Sponsored by NavHosp Great Lakes, Bioethics Committee. For information call CDR F.E. Rodriguez, NC, Bioethics Committee Chair, at (708) 688-5929, DSN 792-5929.

-- 1-5 October 1994, the Seventh Annual Surgeon General's Leaders' Conference, Reston Hyatt Town Center Hotel, Reston, VA. A naval message with more details will be released shortly.

-- 17-28 October 1994, Operational Entomology Training, Navy Disease Vector Ecology and Control Center, Jacksonville, FL. For information, contact the DVECC Training Department at (904) 772-2424, DSN 942-2424, FAX (904) 779-0107.

-- 13-18 November 1994, Association of Military Surgeons of the United States' Annual Meeting, "Unity Through Diversity," Orlando, FL, (301) 897-8800.

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HEADLINE: AMSUS Auxiliary Offers Special Program

AMSUS Bethesda, MD (NSMN) -- "The spouse Auxiliary of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States," said Auxiliary Chair Karen Hagen, "has planned a special program for this year's Annual Meeting. We are looking forward to all that the Orlando area has to offer."

The 101st AMSUS Annual Meeting will take place in Orlando, FL, from 13 to 18 November 1994.

"Because of the number of spouses who are health care professionals in their own right, AMSUS offers continuing education credits to those who attend approved presentations," Hagen said. "This additional benefit should help make it easier and more attractive for our spouses to come to Orlando."

AMSUS Executive Director Lt Gen Max B. Bralliar, USAF (Ret.), MC, indicates that more than 6,000 military and federal physicians, dentists, veterinarians, nurses, administrators and enlisted professionals (medics, corpsmen and dental technicians) are expected to attend.

"The Navy is proud to be the host for this year's meeting," said General Chair RADM Roger Triftshauser, DC, USNR. "The Orlando area has something for everyone, particularly for those who would like to bring spouses and family members."

The tentative Schedule of Events for Auxiliary members is:

-- 14 November, Monday: AM AMSUS Opening Ceremony
PM Florida Homes Tour
St. Johns River Cruise
Shopping Tour of Belz (Outlet)

-- 15 November, Tuesday: Universal Studio Tour
Tiffany at Winter Park
-- 16 November, Wednesday: Kennedy Space Center
Busch Gardens

Other attractions for AMSUS members, spouses and family members in the Orlando area are Walt Disney World and Sea World.

Organized in 1891, AMSUS was chartered by Congress in 1903 and is composed of members of the military services, the Public Health Service and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Members are represented by AMSUS in the Council of Military Organizations and the Military Coalition. These organizations, with a combined membership of more than 3.5 million, support legislation on behalf of all active duty, retired, veteran and federal health professionals.

AMSUS has held its previous Annual Meetings at cities such as San Antonio, Nashville and San Diego.

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HEADLINE: Hospital Epidemiology Course Offered

CDC Atlanta (NSMN) -- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) and the American Hospital Association will cosponsor a hospital epidemiology training course 17-20 September 1994 in Chicago.

The course, designed for infectious disease fellows, new hospital epidemiologists and infection-control practitioners, provides hands-on exercises to improve skills in detection, investigation and control of epidemiologic problems encountered in the hospital setting and lectures and seminars on fundamental aspects of hospital epidemiology.

Additional information is available from SHEA Meetings Department, 875 Kings Highway, Suite 200, Woodbury, NJ 08096-3172; (609) 845-1720.

Reprinted from CDC's MMWR of 22 July 1994

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4. Month of August observances and events occurring 4-15 August: AUGUST

National Head Lice Prevention Month (National Pediculosis Association, 1-800-446-4NPA or 617/449-NITS)

4 August 1947: Navy Medical Service Corps Birthday

4 August: VOTE! Tennessee Primary

5 August 1864: Battle of Mobile Bay; Admiral Farragut's famous statement, "Damn the torpedoes! Four bells! ... full speed."

7 August 1789: U.S. War Department Created (forerunner of the Defense Department)

7 August 1782: George Washington founded "Order of Purple Heart"

9 August: VOTE! Colorado Primary

10 August: Night Detailing until 2200 ET

15 August: DC DUINS Board Convenes

15 August: Active O-3 MC, DC, MSC, NC Boards Convene

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HEADLINE: Navy Physician Assistants Celebrate 20 Years

BUMED Washington (NSMN) -- On 31 July 1974, eight hospital corpsmen completed two years of training and were promoted to warrant officers, becoming the first Physician Assistants in the Navy.

Over the past 20 years, the program has had a very stormy course, testified to by its cancellation on three separate occasions. But it survived. And, on 1 September 1989, PAs found a new home in the medical service corps.

Although no longer counted among the Navy's nearly 200 PAs, one of the original eight physician assistant warrant officers is still a certified PA and on active duty: optometrist LCDR Robert Aitken, MSC, officer in charge of Navy Branch Medical Clinic Charleston, SC.

Happy 20th Physician Assistants.

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